Smart Growth in the Commonwealth: A Year of Progress

Secretary Douglas I Foy

Office for Commonwealth Development

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Mission

The Office for Commonwealth Development (OCD) was created to care for the built and natural environments by promoting sustainable development – or smart growth - through the integration of energy, environment, housing and transportation policies, programs, regulations and investments.

Why Smart Growth?

- Transportation: Only real solution to gridlock
- Housing: Affordability crisis requires more compact development, recycling of land
- Environment: Protect air, water, farms & forests
- Demographics: Empty nesters and seniors demand urban living opportunities
- Fiscal policy: Use and rebuild the infrastructure we have!
- Economic competitiveness
  - MA must have great communities to compete
  - Regional Competitiveness Councils want vital urban centers
- 5 Million Acres – 2 Million left

Three Key Goals:

- Focus Investments

- Regulate Strategically

- Lead Sustainable Development

Focus Investments

- ✓ **Unified Budget**
  - ✓ **Doubling Housing Starts**
  - ✓ **Fix it First**
  - ✓ **Communities First**
  - ✓ **Transit Oriented Development (TOD)**
  - ✓ **Commonwealth Capital (CC)**

Doubling Housing

- ✓ **40B Reform**
- ✓ **40R Rezoning Legislation**
- ✓ **MassHousing $100M Priority Development Fund (PDF)**
- ✓ **$10M Transit Node Program**
- ✓ **$20M Expansion of Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program**

Fix It First

- ✓ **MassHighway: Road and Bridge Program – 500 Deficient Bridges**
  - • **Objective Criteria**
  - • **Priority for repair and rehabilitation of existing streets, roads, structurally deficient bridges**
- ✓ **DCR: World-Class Parks and Parkways - $1 billion backlog**
  - • **Objective Criteria**
  - • **$60 million more in new supplemental budget bill**
- ✓ **MBTA: "State of Good Repair" program - $3 billion backlog**
  - • **A national model for SGR**
- ✓ **Public Housing - $1 billion backlog**

Fix it First

FY04 Stats

OCD-wide: 66%
EOEA-wide: 36%
DCR-wide: 76%
EOT-wide: 73%
MHD-wide: 79%
DHCD-wide: 54%

Communities First

✓ **Highway Design Manual**

- **Context-sensitive Design**
- **"Best of Breed"**

✓ **Reducing backlog of exception requests**

- **57 0f 60 resolved**

Audobon
Sanctuary

National
Seashore

Salt Pond
Visitor's Center

Cape Cod
Rail trail

Nauset
Bike Trail

Rail trail

Rte 134   Rte 124

Rte 6

exit 9   Harwich Extension

Rte 28

BEST OF
BREED

EUGENE
KENNEL CLUB
SEPTEMBER   1998
CALLEA PHOTO
by MEG

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

- ✓ **$ 2 plus Billion Transportation Bond Bill - $30M for TOD**
- ✓ **$22M MassHousing for TOD**
- ✓ **$40M TOD MBTA Infrastructure Fund**
- ✓ **4 TOD sites in planning (Revere, Malden, Woburn, Belmont)**

Focus Investments

Ashmont Station Proposed

Ashmont Station Existing

Ashmont Station - December 1999

Trinity Financial
Developer

Aerial View

The Architectural Team, Inc.
Architect

Focus Investments

Revere

Malden

Woburn

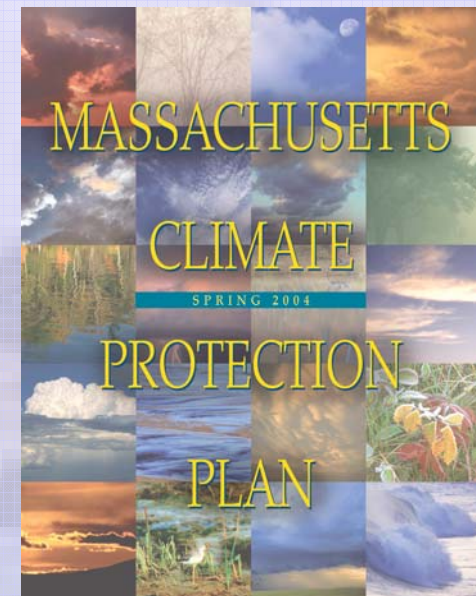# **Commonwealth Capital**

✓ 4 New Grant Programs
  – **Urban Brownfields Site Assessment Program**
  – **Urban River Revitalization Program**
  – **TOD Bond Program**
  – **Drinking Water Supply Protection Grants**
✓ Funding for Transit Node ($3M)
✓ Restructured APR and Land Acquisition Programs

Regulate Strategically

- ✓ **EOEA Lean and Green**
  - – DEP Fast Track Permitting
  - – Biotech Initiative
  - – Brownfields Initiative
- ✓ **40B Regulations**
- ✓ **40R Regulations**
- ✓ **TOD Regulations**
- ✓ **Climate Change Actions**
- ✓ **New Smart Growth Executive Order**
- ✓ **Endangered Species Reg Reform**
- ✓ **EOEA Water Policy Action Items**
- ✓ **Renewable Portfolio Standard**
- ✓ **Highway Design Manual**

Lead Sustainable Development

✓ **Integrate Sustainable Development Principles into agency decision-making**

✓ **Host Smart Growth Discussions across the state**

✓ **Launch Governor's Smart Growth Awards**

✓ **Enhance cross agency interaction**

Smart Growth: it's not just in Portland anymore…

Adams

Photo: Mass. EOEA

Photo: Mass. EOEA

Haverhill

104 ESSEX STREET

14-36 GRANITE STREET

29/08/2003

Sutton

Brockton

Photo: Mass. EOEA

Photo: Mass. EOEA

Dennis

Photo: Mass. EOEA

Crowes Pasture

Newburyport

Photo: Mass. EOEA

Miles to go…

- **Execution on our current commitments**
- **25 Year Transportation Plan with financing**
- **40A Reform**
  - **ANR**
  - **Grandfathering**
- **40B Regulations**
- **20+ TOD Sites**
- **School Costs and Housing**
- **Open Space Innovation**
- **Reduce Land Consumption Burn Rate**
- **Tech. Assist and Local Capacity Building**
- **Health Connection**
- **Senior Agenda**

Expanding Agency Collaboration

- Continue Integration of Sustainable Development Principles
- Policy Punch List
- Coordinated Technical Assistance
  - One voice
  - One door
  - One wallet